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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/997,168	11/29/2001	John Frederick Porter	D1815-00053	4547

8933 7590 07/06/2005  
DUANE MORRIS, LLP  
IP DEPARTMENT  
ONE LIBERTY PLACE  
PHILADELPHIA, PA 19103-7396

EXAMINER

TORRES VELAZQUEZ, NORCA LIZ

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

1771

DATE MAILED: 07/06/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

## Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/997,168

Applicant(s)

PORTER, JOHN FREDERICK

Examiner

Norca L. Torres-Velazquez

Art Unit

1771

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 13 April 2005.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4,7-11 and 26 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4,7-11 and 26 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 29 November 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Response to Arguments***

1. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-11 and 26 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

- a. Claims 8 and 26 do not require the argued adhesive layer.
- b. With regards to claims 1-4, 9-11, it is noted that the adhesive of Fell is a thermoset resin that is heated and compressed to bond.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claim 8 and 26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over SPIELAU (US 4,550,051) in view of WESTRE et al. (EP 0783960 A2).

SPIELAU et al. discloses a laminate or multilayered composited structure based on epoxy resin that provides the advantages of the glass-fiber reinforced epoxy resin laminates, such as high flexural strength, surface resistance, among others. (Column 2, lines 10-17) The reference discloses that one drawback of glass-reinforced epoxy resin laminates is poor drilling and punching and cutting capacity. (Column 2, lines 10-22) The reference teaches a laminate construction constituting a bonded multilayered composite of resin-impregnated outer plies, containing a substrate of glass fibers with resin-impregnated core plies containing flat textile forms of synthetic thermoplastic fibers. (Column 2, lines 32-37) The reference teaches materials

Art Unit: 1771

for the fibers of thermoplastic synthetic resins for the core plies that read on the present application. (Column 3, lines 19-54) In their drawings, the reference shows the laminate of their invention. With regards to the claimed toughness, tensile modulus, elongation at break, since Spielau employs the same materials, presumably it would possess the same properties. It is noted that SPIELAU teaches the use of core materials of synthetic thermoplastic fibers having a basis weight of about 100-400 g/m<sup>2</sup> that reads on the values claimed herein. (Refer to claim 1 and Col. 4, lines 27-30) With regards to the basis weight of the resin-impregnated fiber-containing layers, the reference teaches the use of substrates based on glass fibers that exhibit preferably a basis weight of about 70-350 g/m<sup>2</sup>. (Column 4, lines 17-22) It is the Examiner's position that the basis weight depends on the intended properties needed. For example, when the basis weight is increased, a thicker and stronger material is produced. Therefore, since Applicant's have not shown criticality to a basis weight being at least 400 g/m<sup>2</sup>, this limitation is recognized as result effective variable in this field of endeavor and it has been held that discovering optimum values would have been or result effective variables involves only routine experimentation. It is noted that the SPIELAU reference teaches the multi-layered composite of the present invention and that it is known to attach such composites in the printed circuits art to substrates such as metals and plastic in computer casings by the use of screws.

While SPIELAU is directed to composites that are attached to substrates, the reference is silent to their use in "structural" joint applications.

WESTRE et al. provides a hybrid laminate and skin panels of hybrid laminate structure that are suitable for a supersonic civilian aircraft. (Abstract) The reference teaches using such

Art Unit: 1771

laminates structures in the form of aircraft outer skin panels forming joints with high open-hole tensile and compressive strengths and the use of fasteners to attach them. (Page 3, lines 5-12)

It would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to modify the composite and use it in "structural" applications with the motivation of producing joints with high open-hole tensile and compressive strengths that are suitable for structural joints such as those in aircraft applications as disclosed by WESTRE et al. (above).

4. Claims 1-4 and 9-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over SPIELAU (US 4,550,051) and WESTRE et al. (EP 0783960 A2), and further in view of FELL (US 5,316,604).

SPIELAU fails to teach the use of a polyolefin adhesive.

FELL relates to a composite/sandwich structure that comprises a core with facing sheets or skins laminated to the core with a thermoplastic film or layer. (Col. 1, lines 12-21) It is noted that Fell uses a thermoset resin that is heated and compressed to bond. WESTRE et al. provides a hybrid laminate and skin panels of hybrid laminate structure that are suitable for a supersonic civilian aircraft. (Abstract) The reference teaches using such laminates structures in the form of aircraft outer skin panels forming joints with high open-hole tensile and compressive strengths and the use of fasteners to attach them. (Page 3, lines 5-12)

It would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to use an adhesive film in the lamination of the facing sheets to the core motivated by the desire of strengthening the bonding of the layers and avoid delamination.

Art Unit: 1771

5. Claims 1-4 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over KRAUSE (US 4,451,528) in view WESTRE et al. (EP 0783960 A2) and further in view of FELL (US 5,316,604).

KRAUSE discloses a composite fiber reinforced plastic member and its method of manufacture to provide a high-strength lightweight part particularly suitable for use as a structural component. The composite member comprises a body or web comprised of a glass fiber reinforced thermosetting resin matrix having having a carbonized fiber reinforced compatible resin. (Abstract) The reference teaches the use of components fabricated from reinforced synthetic resins in the aircraft, automotive, leisure products and industrial equipment industries. (Column 1, lines 11-14) The reference teaches that in order to increase the strength of the prior art's fiberglass reinforced plastic components; they proposed to mix higher strength fibers or filaments with the glass fibers or glass filaments effecting a further reinforcement thereof. Fibers such as carbonized fibers, boron fibers, steel fibers, asbestos fibers, and the like, have been suggested, of which highly carbonized or graphitized fibers are particularly suitable because of their exceedingly high-strength. (Column 1, lines 26-56) The reference teaches the use of layers or strata of graphite fiber reinforced layers sandwiched between two overlying glass fiber containing resin matrices to achieve the requisite reinforcement as the case may be. (Column 5, line 63 through Column 6, line 3). It is the Examiner's interpretation that this teaching equates to the laminate comprising a pair of composite layers containing a resin-impregnated glass fabric or mat and a core layer laminated between the pair of composite layers. With regards to the claimed toughness, high modulus and low modulus materials, it is noted that the Krause reference teaches the same material and the same structure so that it would have to

Art Unit: 1771

have the same properties. With regards to claim 7, it is noted that the reference teaches mixing higher strength fibers or filaments with the glass fibers or glass filaments effecting a further reinforcement in the reinforced plastic components. (Above)

KRAUSE is silent to the use of the composite in “structural” joint applications and to the use of a polyolefin adhesive.

FELL relates to a composite/sandwich structure that comprises a core with facing sheets or skins laminated to the core with a thermoplastic film or layer. (Col. 1, lines 12-21)

It would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to modify the composite and use it in “structural” applications with the motivation of producing joints with high open-hole tensile and compressive strengths that are suitable for structural joints such as those in aircraft applications as disclosed by WESTRE et al. (above). It would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to use an adhesive film such as the one taught by FELL for lamination of the facing sheets to the core motivated by the desire of strengthening the bonding of the layers and avoid delamination.

6. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period

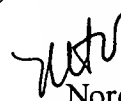
Art Unit: 1771

will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Norca L. Torres-Velazquez whose telephone number is 571-272-1484. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday 8:00-5:00 pm and alternate Fridays.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Terrel Morris can be reached on 571-272-1478. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Norca L. Torres-Velazquez  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 1771

June 27, 2005